



OESNEWS

Governor's Office of Emergency Services

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First Meeting of New Governor's Emergency Operations Executive Council Looks at Key Disaster Issues Significant to California

SACRAMENTO — The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) has announced that the newly formed Governor's Emergency Operations Executive Council (GEOEC) met today at OES headquarters in Sacramento to begin aggressive coordination of critical disaster and emergency planning efforts that are the shared responsibility of several top State agencies.

The GEOEC was established by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger as part of a broad ranging Executive Order on April 18, 2006 – the 100th anniversary of the 1906 earthquake. The Council will facilitate more improved coordination of State agencies prior to, during, and in the recovery phase of any disaster.

"The devastation of 9/11 and the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina have reinforced the importance of strong coordination amongst State agencies," said OES Director and GEOEC Chairman Henry Renteria. "Today's meeting of the Governor's Emergency Operations Executive Council marks a major move in California to improve the collaboration and strengthen communication among the decision makers the Governor relies on to provide him valuable council before, during, and after a disaster.

"California is one of the best-prepared states in the nation when it comes to dealing with disasters – But we know we can do even better and Governor Schwarzenegger is making sure that we have the resources and collaboration in place to achieve the highest level of emergency preparedness possible. The work of this council will keep Californians safe and ready for disasters of all kinds, be they natural or human-made," Renteria added.

The GEOEC will meet throughout the year to develop recommendations for the Governor and the legislature on pending emergency conditions that may threaten public health and safety, as well as focus on creating strong relationships among key response agencies, the council will also assess federal resources that are required to improve state prevention and response capabilities.

"Emergency preparedness has long been the Administration's top priority," said Matt Bettenhausen, Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security. "The Governor's Emergency Operations Executive Committee underscores the Administration's ongoing commitment to emergency preparedness. This new Committee will ensure state agencies continue their robust and collaborative efforts to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and quickly recover from catastrophes."

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GEOEC Press Release
June 6, 2006

Members of the GEOEC include the:

Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services
Director of the Office of Homeland Security
Adjutant General of the California National Guard
Secretary of the Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency
Secretary of Corrections and Rehabilitation
Secretary of Education
Secretary of the Environmental Protection Agency
Director of Finance
Secretary of Food and Agriculture
Secretary of Health and Human Services
Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development
Secretary of the Resources Agency
Secretary of State and Consumer Services
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
Director of Forestry and Fire Protection
Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol
Director of the Department of Water Resources
State Public Health Officer
Director of Health Services
State Veterinarian
Director of the Department of Fish and Game
Director of the Department of Toxic Substances Control
Chair of the California Air Resources Board
Director of the Emergency Medical Services Authority

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